

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Paul Berg, 40, and Jason Johnson, 34, both of Duluth, Minn., were sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court by Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Berg was sentenced to 18 months in prison and Johnson was sentenced to one year and one day in prison.

Between September 2003 and February 2004, Berg and Johnson acquired methamphetamine from Jesse Mateo Rodrigues in Minneapolis and brought it to Superior and Duluth, where it was sold by Paul Horvatic and others.

Berg and Johnson were indicted by a federal grand jury on March 28, 2007. The other members of the conspiracy previously convicted and sentenced are: Paul Horvatic, 300 months in prison; Jesse Mateo Rodrigues, 292 months in prison; Isreal Flores, 262 months in prison; and Paul Letsos, 57 months in prison.

Judge Crabb noted at sentencing that both Berg and Johnson were sentenced to substantially less time than their co-conspirators because they voluntarily withdrew from the conspiracy and acted only as couriers for a short amount of time.

The charges against the defendants were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation - Narcotics Bureau, the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, the Superior Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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